

Hurricane Katrina bears down on Louisiana and Mississippi.

Nasa Astronomy Picture of the Day Archive: Aug 29, 2005

Dordt encourages Katrina relief effort

Teresa Maas
Staff Writer

Many of us have heard of the destruction done by Hurricane Katrina. The tragedy is enormous and many are asking why it wasn't prevented. Before accusations begin, it is important to realize a few of the issues.

New Orleans is below sea level, and surrounding land is disappearing due to the lack of sediment. Further adding to the problem is the gas industry, which Dordt students rely on. Whenever fuel is drilled up, it creates empty pores. As Environmental Studies Professor Dr. Stutz says, "It is turning the land into Swiss cheese."

So, if these facts were known, why weren't the people evacuated before the storm hit? Stutz says, "Most hurricane-threatened areas are tourist resorts with small populations and robust economies. We have no experience evacuating 100,000 people who have a lack of access to cars."

Nothing can be done to change the past. But how can we, a college community, respond?

Dordt is doing many things.

Up to 10 students who can no longer attend college because of damage, will be accepted to Dordt tuition-free for a semester. Anyone interested is urged to contact Registrar Jim Bos as soon as possible.

Those not affected by the hurricane can help support the United Christian College Fund, sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. All donations made to the fund, up to \$5000, will be matched by Dordt. For more information, see CCCU's site: www.cccu.org.

Student Forum is challenging the campus community to raise \$7,500 to contribute to relief efforts. You can help the cause by attending "Tip Night" on Monday, September 26th, at the Sioux Center Pizza Ranch. Social work students will bus tables and collect all tips, as well as 10 percent of the

sales. Heather Groen or Alysia Millier can be contacted for more information.

You can also take part in "Kash for Katrina, a fundraising walk organized by Shamar, the Earthkeeping Club at Dordt. This 12-mile walk, from Sioux Center to Orange City, is on Saturday, September 17. All money will go towards Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (C R W R C). Willing walkers can pick up

pledge forms from their RA's, the English pod, Media Center or Library.

People who do not wish to walk but would like to help are urged to sponsor someone who is. If you don't know anyone, you can meet in the Eckardt Lounge on Saturday morning at about 10:00. At this time, all walkers will meet

and begin the walk. If there are any questions, please contact Elbert Bakker or Dena Nicolai.

If none of the events work for you, a direct contribution can also be made at the blood drive sign up table. The blood drive will be held in the West Commons on Tuesday, September 20, and Wednesday, the 21st. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. both days, blood will be received by the Siouxland Blood Bank to target the relief.

Clothing donations are also being received for the Red Cross in the drop box in the hall by the Human Resource Office by September 30.

Student Services is looking into possibilities for possible service projects over winter and spring breaks.

But because of the extent of the damage, no definite plans are made at this time. Look for updates in the TODAY.

Also, Student Services has decided to donate all parking fines received September 12-16.

Remember, life is not always fair. But as Christians, we know that "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).

**"And we know that
all things work
together for good to
them that love God,
to them who are the
called according to
[his] purpose."**

Romans 8:28

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Fast Forward

Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Euclid Quartet coming to Dordt

The internationally renowned Euclid Quartet is coming to Dordt for a concert on Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 pm. Featuring four string instruments, this group has played in such places as Carnegie Hall, but now they come to the BJ Haan with their music. Tickets are \$5 for Dordt students.

This concert is being brought to Iowa by the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra.

American Bandstand coming to BJ Haan

The Dordt College Band and Chamber Orchestra will be performing a pops concert this Friday, September 16 at 7:00p.m. in the BJ Haan Auditorium. The theme of the night is "American Bandstand". Dancers from Robin's School of Dance in Sioux Center will also be there in costume. Come out for an enjoyable time with Dordt's music department. Admission is free.

Dordt events to help Katrina victims

The students and administration are looking at ways to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina. There will be a blood drive at the West Commons on Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 21 from 10a.m to 4p.m. On Monday, September 26 social work students will be busing tables at Pizza Ranch with 10% of the sales and all tips raised going toward hurricane relief.

Dordt ranks among top schools again

Joe Eggebeen
News Editor

Dordt College ranks 10th in the US News and World Report's annual ranking of 107 colleges in the Midwest, tied with Augustana College. Also, Dordt is listed as one of the 158 colleges included in the Princeton Review's "Best in the Midwest".

The US News has ranked Dordt highly for many years, as Dordt has been noted very high in at least one category for the last thirteen years. The magazine judges schools on a variety of different categories and then compares the overall score for the school against similar schools in its region. In this corner of Iowa, Northwestern over in Orange City is ranked 20th while Morningside in Sioux City is ranked 46th.

The Princeton Review ranks schools a little bit differently. Instead of judging the schools, the Review asks students to fill out questionnaires and from that information ranks colleges accordingly. Students can fill out the yearly survey at Dordt or go online to the Review's website to fill out the private, secure survey.

And with the rankings in mind, Dordt begins the 2005-2006 school year. A grand total of 1,326 students are enrolled in Dordt, coming from the US and Canada as well as nine other countries around the world. Although the enrollment number is down about 30 students from last year, nearly 20 more freshmen enrolled this year than last.

New faces bring worship to campus

Jacqueline Wojcik
Staff Writer

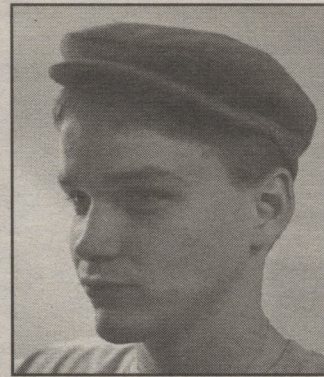
Dordt College was unable to find a Campus Pastor for this year, so the duties normally carried out by him must be carried out by others. This summer, the Spiritual Activities Committee chose speakers for chapel and planned the chapel schedule and theme.

The Campus Ministries Assistant, Sam Gutierrez, is working with the Spiritual Activities Committee to keep Chapel, GIFT, Praise and Worship, Wellspring, All Campus Retreat, Covenant Groups, PLIA and AMOR running this year.

Local pastors as well as Student Services staff are open to meet with students in the absence of a campus pastor to talk to students who need guidance.

Tom Dykstra is the GIFT Music Coordinator and Marcus Roskamp is the GIFT Coordinator.

Dykstra's job mostly consists of planning GIFT's



Mark Wikkerink

L-R: Tom Dykstra, Marcus Roskamp and Sarah Hoogendoorn are the new faces leading worship at Dordt for the coming 2005-2006 year.

structure, theme and speaker and leading the service (which includes leading the band and preparing the music.) One service's theme will be on thirst and how students should be thirsty for God in their lives. Dykstra says that he and Roskamp meet to pray over services and do many more mundane things such as filing and organizing. He says that they talk about how GIFT went and try to plan to make it better every week.

Tom Dykstra said,

"GIFT was spiritually refreshing in a lot of ways." He also says that as an upper-classman last year, he found it socially refreshing because he didn't always see his friends in class and he no longer ate at the Commons or Grill.

Sarah Hoogendoorn, a theology major, is the Chapel Coordinator. Sarah described her job as the behind-the-scenes things of chapel. She contacts the speakers and the musicians and chooses songs for chapel. If a speaker wants

a particular song, she arranges that. Sarah is encouraged by the increased chapel attendance this year over last year, but she would still like it to increase even more. She said that Dordt Students are all a Christian family and it is important for them to worship, learn and grow together.

"It's such a learning experience and I'm really thankful for the opportunity. And it's such a good time," Sarah said of her job as Chapel Coordinator.

New professors begin teaching at Dordt

Alanna Dake
Staff Writer

A few new faces appear in a number of Dordt classrooms this semester. Dordt College has added four new professors to their staff for the 2005-2006 school year.

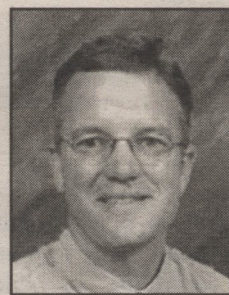
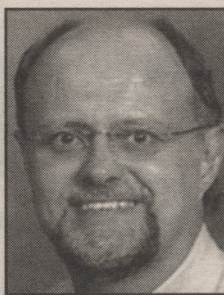
Two areas that will be gaining these new staff members are the Education Department and the Music Department.

Joining the Education Department are Dr. Ed Starkenburg and Tim Van Soelen. Starkenburg, a Northwest Iowa native, previously taught in the education department at Northwestern College for 13 years, and for the past 4 years he was a chairman on the education board.

Now back to teaching in the classroom, Starkenburg has especially enjoyed working with his new colleagues here at Dordt and teaching Gen 100 while learning the ropes right along with the freshmen.

The second professor to join the education Department is Tim Van Soelen. Van Soelen has taught in Southern California and been an administrator at Sioux Falls Christian School. Since coming to Dordt, he

enjoyed seeing the excitement the students bring to the classroom, the high level class discus-



L-R: Dr. Robert Horton, Dr. Teresa TerHaar, Dr. Ed Starkenburg and Mr. Tim Van Soelen have joined Dordt's faculty for the coming year.

sions and the strong Christian community.

When asked about their hopes for the future of Dordt's Education's Department, Starkenburg replied he would like to see the curriculum taught in the classrooms to give the students a "commitment to living out their worldview in their profession".

Van Soelen is excited about using new electronic portfolios, which is a way that "technology can be used to improve education and more relevantly glorify God."

The music department is also welcoming in a new professor. Dr. Robert Horton was previously a church musician and has traveled to multiple countries for music competitions.

Horton is very passionate about his work here at Dordt. He has enjoyed the

stimulation of the environment and states, "I can honestly say I enjoy coming to work each morning".

When looking ahead to the future of Dordt's music department, Horton says he would like to see the "cultivation of an active studio." He would like to help students go beyond minimum requirements of the program.

The Theatre Department welcomes Dr. Teresa TerHaar, Trinity Christian College Assistant Professor of Communication Arts. She has accepted a two-year sabbatical position at Dordt College.

She is a native of Grand Rapids, Mich. and enjoys adapting children's literature for stage performances, as well as running, knitting and reading.



Out and About

Computer games proved to be a deadly obsession for a man in a Seoul cyber-cafe. The 28-year-old Korean died minutes after completing his 50th consecutive hour of playing online. The cause of death was determined to be exhaustion-related heart failure.

Smoking apparently isn't just a problem for humans. 15 years ago a female chimpanzee in a Chinese zoo started picking up cigarette butts left by tourists and is now a heavy smoker. Her mate's recent death has caused her to smoke even more. Her handlers, worried about her health, are trying to get her to cut back.

A waitress in Sweden's Njuraager Cafe was surprised by the generous tip given her by an elderly customer--the keys to his 1979 Porsche 924. The 19-year-old waitress got the customer's phone number and picked up the car the next morning. The customer said he didn't really have a reason for giving the girl his car, she just looked like someone who should own her own Porsche.

15 September 2005

DIAMOND opinion

Editorial by Jessica Braunschweig *Trusting God on the back seat of a bike*

I recently realized that life should be lived like riding on the back of bike with someone else in front and in control.

I was on my way back to my apartment last week, exhausted from a long night, when I received an invitation to "hop on" a bike with a friend, whose driving tends to be a bit crazy. No way, I thought. But before I knew it, I was climbing up and onto her bike seat. It was awkward--there I was

with my legs dangling, book-bag balancing, heart racing--the bike was still standing.

I had never doubled up with anyone on a bicycle before, much less at midnight. I wasn't in the mood to crash--except on my pillow. But I braced myself for what was to come.

Slowly, unsteadily we merged onto the sidewalk, with the bike beginning to pick up speed. My friend was pedaling vigorously, in

between glancing back at me and laughing. I peered out through my squinting eyes, not wanting to see. My stomach dropped as if I was on a rollercoaster. My knuckles were white from grabbing the seat.

But suddenly, I let go, in what felt like one of the biggest tests of trust ever. I tipped my head back and let out a laugh that let loose something in my heart. There we were in the pitch dark--speeding down the sidewalk, splitting

groups of pedestrians and screaming in delight. And there I was, for the first time in a long time, at the mercy of someone else and surviving nonetheless. And I went on to tell everyone about it, too 'cuz something so seemingly simple had made my night, leaving me with a metaphor I couldn't forget.

How often do I resist the ride in the first place? And once on, how often do I fight for the handle bars, so stubbornly set in my

course and sure in my ways? Yet it's not until I finally step back, hop on, and sit back, that God can truly take me on an unforgettable journey--one that is sure to shake me up a bit, sure to leave me breathless, sure to remind me that my Driver knows what He's doing.

What better time is there than now to get back on that bike with God? "Oh, Great God of second chances and new beginnings--Here I AM."

Politics and life are not just about sex anymore



Jon Venhuizen
Political columnist

The Christian right has long seized the debate on evangelical political involvement. With poll numbers showing that upwards of 80% of regular church-goers voted for Bush, it's hard not to see the tight grasp that the right has on evangelicals. Today the Christian

right dominates the area of evangelical public policy narrowly (and arguably unbiblically) with two issues: abortion and gay marriage.

Why do these two issues stand out for the Christian right more than any other? Well, evangelicals have always focused on personal piety, morals, and values, but more importantly sex sells. We see it in advertising all the time. Sex brings in money from the donors. It riles up the grassroots. Sex grabs people's attention and makes it much harder for issues such as Social Security reform, poverty, and the environment to move into the limelight.

Now before I receive numerous emails and rebuttal articles in the *Diamond* denouncing me for belittling the importance of com-

bating abortion and gay marriage, I want to make sure we are clear: abortion is wrong, it is an evil mechanism provided to evade personal responsibility and homosexuality is sin, condemned in the Bible period.

But does that mean that that's all that matters? Not at all! Does that mean we should only care about these two issues and nothing else? Absolutely not!

Other issues are important as well. Global poverty, the AIDS epidemic, human rights abuses, international religious freedom, genocide, the environment, reckless foreign policy and health care are all issues that evangelical Christians push to the back in favor of our two favorite sex issues. Not only are these other problems leav-

ing people dead and children orphaned, they are also directly or indirectly addressed in our Bible--the same Bible that we use to denounce abortion and gay marriage.

These issues transcend political parties. Arguments can be made on which party better addresses these problems, but the fact remains that neither party is doing an adequate job.

I am not promoting a certain party over another. If you are a Republican vote Republican, if you are Democrat vote Democrat, if you are neither than vote for the person you think will do the best job. But then pressure your leaders and candidates to take stands on ALL these issues. As evangelicals we need to bring all these issues to

the forefront and force them to act.

Jim Wallis, of Sojourners and Call to Renewal, proudly states, "The monologue of the Christian right is now over!" Maybe, but I doubt it. With the money, influence, and grassroots I would hardly classify it as over.

It is up to us, as the next generation of evangelical Christians, to change the debate and broaden the agenda. We have an opportunity to show that one of the most powerful forces in America, the evangelicals, is becoming more sophisticated and mature.

Let's show the world that we are interested in all areas of life and care about all people.

So, it's not just about sex anymore, it can't be!

Dordt does dishes Defender Style

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

Not all work study jobs are created equal. This is true of dishwashing in the Commons, a job that really puts the "work" into "work study." To fully understand the dirty work done by the Commons dishwashers, who dutifully sport their black Carrie Foods hats, a behind-the-scenes look at the dish room is required.

Sending the disgusting, dirty trays on the road to cleanliness, the conveyor belt begins the dishwashing process. The hands, visible at the end of the conveyor belt,

belong to worker number one, whose job is to grab the used silverware with his/her bare hands and set them aside to soak. The trays then continue on to worker number two, who scrambles to successfully take the many glasses off each tray. Worker Karla Hummel states, "It's really gross when you get chocolate milk running down your arms." The rest of the dirty dishes are then taken off the tray by worker number three, who also is in charge of cleaning off the leftover food. Angela Van Beek, a dish washer, is disgusted when "big blobs of soggy food have to be pushed into the garbage disposal."

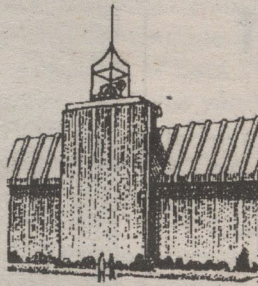
Finally, the trays are stacked into a big dish washer, and the cleaning process is complete.

The speed of the dish room varies. "Sometimes you have to work really fast because the dishes start to pile up, and other times you just stand around waiting for people to finish so you can clean their dishes," said Angela. Both Karla and Angela agree that lunch and dinner are busy times, while breakfast is generally slow.

Thanks to the dish room staff, clean dishes are ready for use each meal. So next time you're at the Commons, don't take your utensils for granted!

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DID YOU KNOW?

Smoking apparently isn't a problem just for humans. 15 years ago a female chimpanzee in a Chinese zoo started picking up cigarette butts left by tourists and is now a heavy smoker. Her mate's recent death has caused her to smoke even more. Her handlers, worried about her health, are trying to get her to cut back.

The Great Debate: *Crossan vs. White*

by J.A. Hubner
Page Editor

This past August, Dr. James R. White and Dr. John Dominic Crossan engaged in one of the most significant moderated theological debates of the 21st Century. The debate took place August 27th in Seattle, WA, as a part of the 2005 National Alpha and Omega Conference.

What made this debate so monumental was both the issue of the debate and the quality and character of the participants themselves.

The thesis of the debate was, "Is the orthodox, biblical account of Jesus of Nazareth authentic and historically accurate?" Crossan was proposing a "symbolical" and less accurate view of the gospel of Christ while White was taking the affirmative. Although this may seem a rather elementary debate subject, it is foundational for any Christian, since Christ and His life is central to Christianity. But, the subject matter could not be defended properly and powerfully without the right person to communicate those truths. To that task of defending the faith on behalf of the Protestant Christian worldview, Dr. White boldly took on the challenge.

James White is the director of Alpha and Omega Ministries (www.aomin.org), which is a Christian apologetics organization based in Phoenix, Arizona. He holds a Masters in Theology, a Masters in Apologetics, and a Doctorate of Ministry from Columbia Evangelical Seminary. He is the author of more than twenty books, a professor at two seminaries and an elder of the Phoenix Reformed Baptist Church. He has also been engaged in over fifty moderated debates regarding issues of Mormonism, Calvinism, Catholicism, Open Theism, homosexuality and more. What makes this debate on the historical accuracy of the Bible so substantial, is the fact that James' opponent is also very trained and capable of putting forth a significant apolo-

getic.

Dr. Crossan was greatly educated in Ireland at Maynooth College, in Rome at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and in Jerusalem at the Ecole Biblique. He was the chair of the Historical Jesus Section of the Society of Biblical Literature from 1992-1998 and the co-director of the Jesus Seminar from 1985-1996. He is currently the Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, DePaul University, Chicago, and the author of over twenty books on the historical Jesus. One of Crossan's most substantial debates took place in 1998 with Christian philosopher, Dr. William Lane

Craig over the issue of the resurrection. Once again, Crossan was proposing a "symbolic" interpretation; the resurrection was merely a "spiritual" resurrection, not an actual one.

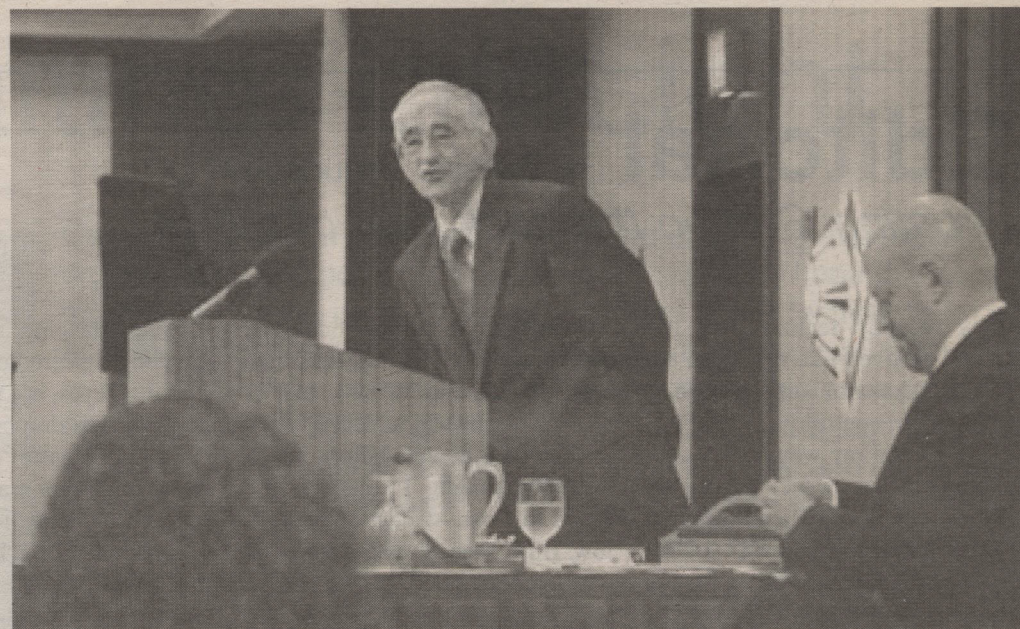
As observed, both participants that debated at the conference are fully trained and fully educated Bible scholars. But this debate was particularly different because of its uniqueness. White has never debated anyone holding this

particular view of the gospel before, and Crossan was in a similar position. "I didn't see any context in which he would have run into a consistent, apologetically minded Reformed Baptist. So, that may have been the very first time that has ever taken place," commented White about Crossan after the debate on his radio show, The Dividing Line.

It is also interesting to note the reaction of some of the listeners who attended the debate. Their testimony on how Crossan reacted to White's approach

"I didn't see any context in which he would have run into a consistent, apologetically minded Reformed Baptist. So, that may have been the very first time that has ever taken place."

-Dr. James White about debating Dr. John Crossan.



Courtesy of aomin.org

Crossan(top) speaks while White (right) listens at the theology debate.

all seemed to be the same. Rich Pierce, the President of Alpha and Omega Ministries said to James on the Dividing Line, "Once you got the cross examination portion, Crossan got comfortable. At that stage in the debate, I think He became amazed with you. I started seeing this comfort level, realizing, 'my goodness, this man has really studied me.'" Another attendant, Carrie Gambill from British Columbia, Canada, also agrees, "He seemed to look at James very differently from that point on." She also noted an interesting occurrence in the debate. She said, "He (Crossan) said several times 'but i could be wrong' after making a statement. Dr. White was firm in his position. Many people seemed confused by Crossan's view, as the Bible is so plain when it is being parabolic and when literal (in the Gospels specifically)."

Micah Burke from Milpitas, CA, also attended the debate. He points out that "It was entertaining that when Dr. White continually brought the discussion to a focus on the text of Scripture and reliability thereof, Crossan seemed unable to provide any reliable facts of his own."

With the backgrounds of the debaters and the testimonies of the attendants in mind, it is no doubt that the clashing of these two great minds came together for an entertaining and informing event. It was also one of the most friendliest debates Dr. White had ever encountered. He commented on his web log at aomin.org, "The debate went far better than I could have possibly imagined. I was particularly happy with the interaction between myself and Dr. Crossan during the cross-examination."

The debate is available on DVD for all to see on the Alpha and Omega website, www.aomin.org.

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15 September 2005

DIAMOND features

A foreign country no more

by Lawren Sinnema
Guest Writer

Before last spring, I had always thought of the Netherlands in terms of stereotypes. I had a romantic view of the land of my ancestors; a land filled with tulips, windmills, wooden shoes, and little Dutch boys plugging dikes with their fingers. I also had a cynical view of contemporary Holland; a place of permissiveness, growing secularization, and cramped living conditions.

After spending a semester on N-SPICE, a Dordt offered off-campus program based in a Dutch town called Zwolle, my understanding of the Netherlands has moved beyond generalizations into a greater appreciation of a strange and fascinating country.

Altogether, there were 18 students who went on N-SPICE, 16 from Dordt as well two students from Calvin and Kings. Each student lived with a Christian host family in Zwolle, which is .50 miles northeast of Amsterdam, or in nearby Hattem. Living with a new family in a different culture can be difficult, but most of us soon felt right at home. My host family was a middle-aged couple with two children still living at home. I soon discovered the openness and strong opinions of the Dutch people; no topic is off-limits at the dinner table! I also grew accustomed to the Dutch dietary staples- yogurt, cheese, stompot, and stroop waffles, to name a few. My favorite Dutch tradition, coffee time, includes the whole family over strong coffee, baked goods, and long conversation.

The atmosphere of a typical Dutch home can be described by the Dutch word *gezellig*, which has no English equivalent, but is similar to our definition of cozy.

Apart from spending time with our host families, much of our time was spent with the N-SPICE group. Through weekend travel, long bikes rides, or mingling with Dutch students at the local bar, the group experienced Dutch culture together. Americans and Canadians enjoy a good reputation among the Dutch, although they are vocal in their criticism of the current U.S. leadership. Dutch students are fascinated with U.S. pop culture, although this leads to many stereotypes about what American students are like (think American Pie).



Student participants from the Dordt N-SPICE program in the Netherlands, spring 2005.

Although courses were offered in Dutch language, culture, art, and history at a Reformed college in Zwolle, much of our learning took place outside of the classroom. Every Wednesday there was an excursion to a different location within the Netherlands. Some of the most memorable excursions include a women's shelter for prostitutes in Amsterdam, a World War II resistance museum in Leeuwarden, and a tour of the Dutch parliament building in the Hague.

Experiencing daily life in the Netherlands taught me to be careful about over generalizing about another culture. The Dutch have some of the most liberal policies regarding drugs, prostitution, euthanasia, and abortion. Thanks to movies like Eurotrip, the whole country is often equated with the decadent aspects of Amsterdam. Safe to say, walking through the Red Light district, which is filled with mostly gawking tourists, is quite a contrast from small town Iowa. But to reduce the Netherlands to the vices of Amsterdam would be to ignore the country's historic charm, regional diversity, and friendly people.

While the Dutch are renowned for their tolerance and respect of pluralism, I was surprised to find that these

values were being challenged. The rise of Muslim immigration has led right-wing political parties to capitalize on xenophobia among the Dutch population. The struggle to maintain a Dutch identity has led some to scapegoat immigrants as the source of national problems.

Most weekends and breaks were spent traveling to several European countries. Whether it was hiking in the Swiss Alps, watching a magical laser show in Prague, touring medieval castles in Germany, or roaming the streets of Venice, traveling across Europe was an amazing experience. Of course, not everything went smoothly. There were missed trains, dirty youth hostels, language barriers, and a lost passport- but that's all part of the adventure of traveling.

Every time I headed back to the Netherlands after a weekend touring another country, I always felt like I was going home. There is just something special about daily life in the Netherlands that grows on a person--everyone should experience it. For me, the Netherlands will always be bike rides through driving rain, drinking coffee with my host family, playing soccer with Dutch kids in a local park and the *gezellig* atmosphere. I was living in a country that was no longer foreign and no longer bound by my stereotypes.

“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.”

Matt 25:31-46

Elbert Bakker
Staff Writer

This Wednesday through Friday, Sept 14-16, the UN is meeting in New York to review its set of 'Millennium Development Goals.' Every member state in the United Nations, as well as the World Bank, have promised to achieve these Millennium Goals which would halve world poverty by 2015.

The specific Goals are summarized as:

1. Halving extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Universal primary education.
3. Promoting gender equality.
4. Reducing the mortality of children under 5 by 2/3.
5. Reducing maternal deaths by 3/4.
6. Stopping and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Halving the number of people without safe drinking water and significantly improving the lives of slum dwellers.
8. Developing a global partnerships between nations for for the future.

As Christians I think that we should share the gospel by both words and actions as Jesus did in His life. There are many ways to do this, but I'll give an example: The Micah Challenge is a Christian petition trying to hold world leaders to their Millennium Development Goal promises and to halve world poverty by 2015. The Challenge, made up of a variety of Christian groups (such as the CRC and Sojourners) is trying to gather at least 30,000 people in New York to fast and pray while the Summit meets.

As Americans, the *Micah Challenge* group is specifically asking for the U.S. to pledge \$5 billion more in development assistance and faster action in canceling debt for the world's poorest countries. This would increase U.S. foreign aid by one percent of the current national budget. Unfortunately the U.S. has tried to back out and tone down its promises through its UN ambassador John Bolton.

This may sound familiar to the mid-July G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland because they are basically the same campaign, only at different meetings. After the Make Poverty History / ONE campaigns raised support from more than a billion people, G8 leaders pledged to double their aid to African nations. Hopefully this challenge will have a similar effect.

AND YOU?

Obviously it would be hard to get to New York in the middle of classes, so Shamar would like to hold a smaller fasting and prayer vigil here at Dordt. We won't be having music, international speakers and press conferences like New York, but we'd like to encourage anyone who feels able to fast for what is left of Sept 14-16 (and please consider a more regular fast this year). You don't need to fast for days on end to be effective. In fact, anyone participating in the Katrina Crop Walk might not want to fast at all on Friday so that they have more strength on Saturday.

“A fast can be as simple as sacrificing one meal during the course of the Summit, which can serve as a spiritual and personal act of solidarity with the billions of people across the world who go without food and basic necessities every day.” (Sojourners)

Try using your time in fasting for prayer and reading. Slow down from your normal schedule and spend some time in serious thought.

If you would like more to read, you can find it on the Shamar website; homepages.dordt.edu/~earth under “Resources.” Thanks.

350 Days of Waiting: LifeLight



Melanie Van Dorp

An excited crowd cheers as the Newboys take the stage and wow them with one of the best performances of the weekend.

"Wow, I didn't know there were so many people up here, and so many people who knew our music. Here we are in the middle of cornfields*" stated Mac Powell to mob of screaming fans. Mac, lead singer of Third Day, was astounded at the crowd of people who came out to see their show.

If you don't know what LifeLight is, or were not fortunate enough to have checked it out, it is an awesome weekend of praise and fellowship that is FREE, and you get to see some pretty cool bands and hear some awesome

speakers. Some of the big names in this year's line-up included Point of Grace, Jeremy Camp, Caedmon's Call, Newsboys, Thousand Foot Krutch, Sanctus Real, and Third Day. The speaker this year was Luis Palau.

Some would be prone to assume that LifeLight is restricted to the traditional praise and worship style of music. For those who like the harder punk/rock music, there was plenty of opportunity to shake, rattle, and roll with the Christian hard music.

LifeLight is part of a broader ministry called LifeLight

Communications, a non-profit organization. The point of their ministry is to bring people together, bridging denominational lines, to reach the whole community and beyond with the message of hope and love of Jesus Christ. They not only hold LifeLight Festival, but also organize mission trips, and have partnerships with churches in the area.

The first LifeLight Fest was in 1998, with a small concert on a church lawn. Church members invited friends and neighbors to the free family event, and it has grown every year since. 2,000 people attended that first festival and this year they broke last year's record of 250,000 attendees with the astounding number of 275,000 in attendance.

Over the past few years they have brought in big name Christian music artists like Rebecca St. James, Newsboys, Sonic Flood, Zoe Girl, and Jeremy Camp. Compared to other Christian music festivals in the nation, which cost at least \$60-80 to attend, this one is free. In fact, it is the largest free music festival in the Nation. The reasoning behind having it free is that who wouldn't go to a free festival? Meaning that there is a greater chance that non-believers would be more likely to go to a Christian concert that is free rather than

one that costs the average \$80 per ticket. The hope is that by offering a free festival, there will be a greater chance of bringing more people to Jesus.

Due to the fact that LifeLight is free and is Christian, I was surprised at the few amount of posters and advertisements that Dordt posted merely one day before. Not only is LifeLight an extraordinary experience, it is also a way to show our support for Christian sponsored programs and activities. I think Dordt really needs to get more involved. For example most of the other students I saw at LifeLight were seniors. I don't know if that is because they have heard about LifeLight before, or for the fact that they probably have more access to cars. Dordt has plenty of vans and could have sent a bunch of them full of students. Maybe next year Dordt can get more involved and do some early planning. Only 350 more days!



Beanstalks and Witches and Bakers? Oh My!

**Nathan Terrel
Joelle Sparks
Staff Writers**

The Dordt theatre department charms audiences with a new musical every four years. This year's audience will be spellbound with Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*—some of your favorite childhood fairytale without the sappy Disney endings.

The play combines four familiar Brothers Grimm fairy-

tales: Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Cinderella. All these different plots and characters are thrown together into one crazy story.

Putting a musical together is no easy task. Along with all the lines, actors and actresses need to memorize more than twenty-five songs. Deb Vogel directs the choir.

"It's hard," said Jonathon Shafftstall, who will play Jack. Marcus Roskamp, who plays the baker, was a little more opti-

mistic. He said, "It's challenging...yet super-crazy-mega awesome!"

These actors also need costumes, which is where Sue Blom, costume designer, comes in. Blom had to design and sew together thirty-nine unique costumes for the play. "It's rich stuff," Blom said. "Very elaborate."

Interesting note: all the fabric for the costumes was donated by Mrs. Zavenburgen. Thanks to her donation, Blom was able to use bright color

schemes that stand out on the bleak set.

Speaking of sets, Ethan Koerner designed the set for *Into the Woods*. The set features 16-foot birches, moveable platforms and gallons of black paint. "I designed it to be stark and abstract," Koerner said. "But there will be a few surprises," he added with a wink.

And all musicals need an orchestra. This year's eleven-member orchestra consists entirely of community talent. Jim Van Ry, the orchestra's direc-

tor, is happy with the size of the orchestra. "I'm glad it's this small," Van Ry said. "This is the first Sondheim musical I've ever directed."

Director Jeri Schelhaas chose the musical because "it has some meat. It's not the typical American fluff," she said. "There was a lot of student interest for this musical," she added.

The box office will be busy come October!

15 September 2005

Guns come to campus

Breanne Wierenga
Staff Writer

What do camping, stalking and water guns have in common? All can be found within SAC's (Student Activities Committee) Gotcha Wet! water gun fight.

Gotcha Wet! is an annual Dordt event which will be taking place on campus from September 19 to 23. Participating students are assigned a human target to soak before they themselves get hit. Anyone is allowed to sign up.

Jason Wyenberg, one of the SAC members who is organizing the event this year, says, "People should participate in Gotcha Wet! because it's a great way to spice up your day. You can take the game to whatever level you want, from not caring and signing up just to get squirt in the face by some absolute stranger, or camping out where no one will find you for a week, skipping classes (I'm not endorsing that), and/or creating an elaborate disguise with papier mache and masquera." Jason's brother Chris, a previous participant, adds, "Also, it's a nice way to get to know people, even if they hate you for it."

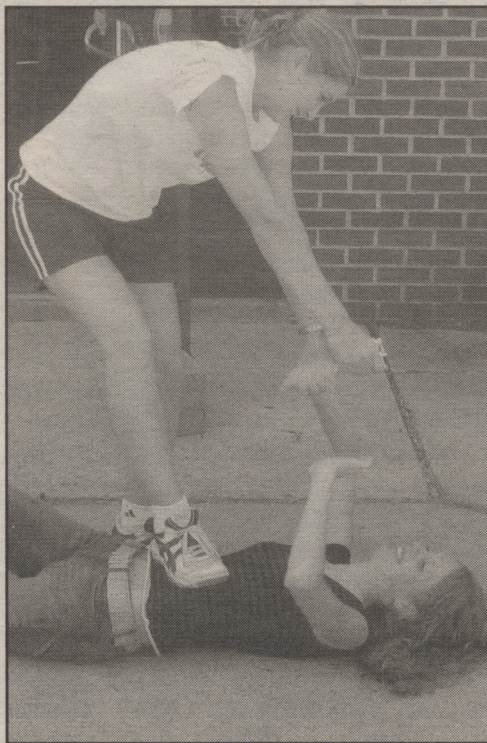
The concept of the game is slightly complex. Participants are given water guns

in their mailboxes as well as a contract that states who their target is. This target is then hunted down and forced to sign his/her contract once he/she is caught. The target's contract (which must also be signed by a witness) is then given to the triumphant hunter, who now aims for the person on the target's contract. The hunter keeps every contract, including his/her own original contract.

This routine of hunting down and collecting people's contracts is continued until the last person receives his/her own name. In the end only one person remains because the game works in a circular pattern. Rules are limited to open hours, no shooting in classrooms or science buildings and other variables such as certain times of the day.

"The best part/aspect of Gotcha Wet! is the 'espionage,' sneaking around and stalking someone legally is such fun," Chris says. He should know.

"I remember when I locked myself in my dorm room when the game started, but my brother betrayed me and unlocked it at midnight and my hunter got me within five minutes of the start of the game," Jason recalls bitterly. "Some advice I'd like to give to newcomers... trust no one, even your twin brother, that backstabbing brat."



Lynette Andree

Kim Taylor and Mallory Ooms practice their attack and defense skills in anticipation for the upcoming Gotcha Wet! event for students.

Wheels of the Week

Lynette Andree
Page Editor

Everyone sees those bikes around campus. You know, the ones that make you do a double take. Maybe because they are "old school". Maybe they're really nice, or maybe you just really like the people who are riding them. Every bike has a story and 'wheels of the week' is determined to try to find the stories behind some of the more peculiar bikes.

This week's bike is the blue and white one that is often seen in between East Campus apartments E and F. It is fondly ridden by many of the residents in the apartments, though the true 'keeper' is Jena Helmus. In an interview Helmus disclosed the history behind this bike. Here is part of the interview in its truest form.

Interviewer: What kind of bike is it? Specifics, please.

Helmus: Hiawatha, I dunno; it says it on the front, let me go check . . . yah, Gambles Hiawatha.

Interviewer: I heard there is a story behind how you got this bike.

Helmus: I'd like to say that it has a history. It was my great-grandmother's bike, the single possession she owned when she immigrated from Holland. She rode it to work every day and even scratched her initials (S.V.R) under the fender so that if she ever lost it, she would know how to recognize it. Then one fateful night she was biking home and got attacked by an assailant who threw her off and stole her prized possession. She always kept an eye out for the bike, but never saw it again.

Then when I was a freshman here I was looking around the Sioux Center garage sales when I found a bike that looked exactly like it. Heart beating, I checked under the fender for the three initials and there they were. I promptly paid for the bike, astounded that this could even happen to me.

Interviewer: I can't believe that! What a history! And that all really happened??

Helmus: No. I wish. I actually got the bike from a friend to use while she is in Uganda. I think her dad fixed it so that we could ride it.

So, there it is, folks. This Gambles Hiawatha wishes that it had a history!



Mark Wilkernink

7

"Guess Who" movie gets review

Samantha Henderson
Staff Writer

★★★★

Cast: Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher, Zoe Saldana, Judith Scott, Kellee Stewart

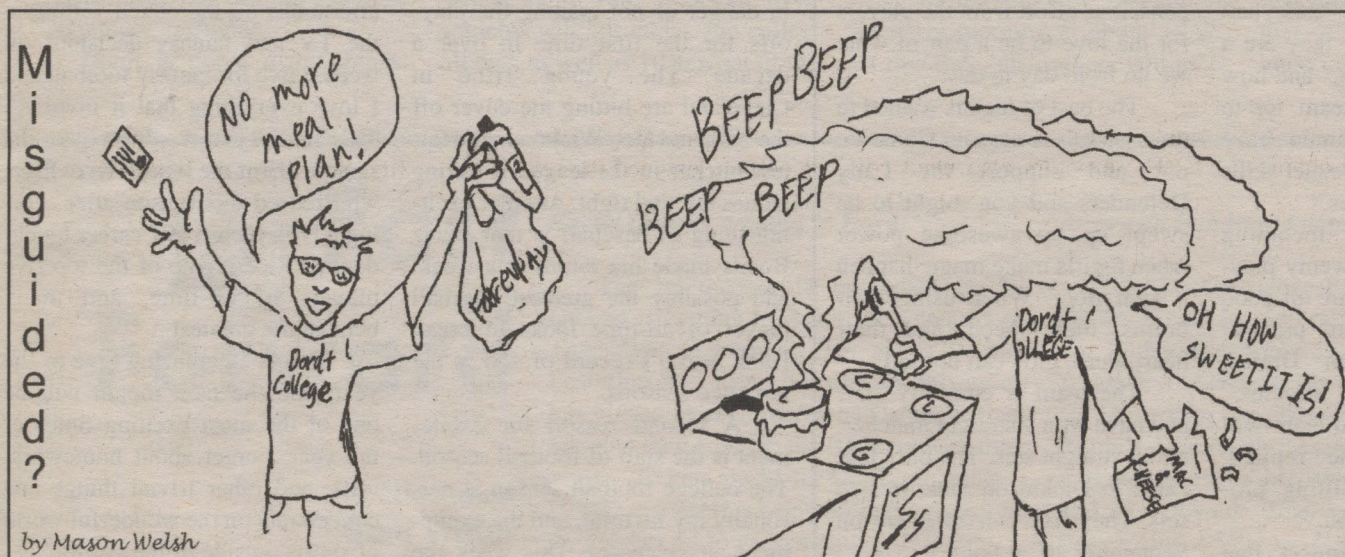
Despite the title, "Guess Who" is not a remake of the classic "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." In fact, other than borrowing the underlying predicament, (girl brings home boyfriend of a different race to meet her family), there are few similarities between the films. To start with, the 1967 feature was primarily a message that doubled as a look of race relations at the time. *And society has changed in the last 40 years. What was controversial and daring in 1967 (interracial

relationships) is no longer today. Although it would be unfair to characterize "Guess Who" as dull, flat or flavorless, it bears a closer resemblance to a non-funny version of "Meet the Parents."

"Guess Who" pairs Bernie Mac with Ashton Kutcher, and, if nothing else, it's an opportunity to weigh their acting skills against one another. With his ability to command the screen and switch gears easily from comedy to drama, Mac does a phenomenal job. Kutcher plays Simon Green, the affluent white boyfriend of Theresa (Saldana). He's about to make the trip to New Jersey to meet her parents for the first time, but they don't know anything about the color of his skin. Theresa's dad, Percy (Mac), has done some homework --he has pulled Simon's credit report. Theresa's mom,

Marilyn (Judith Scott), believes that Percy should keep his nose out of his daughter's business.

"Guess Who" is a strange movie. When it works, it's a pleasant, undemanding comedy about mismatched individuals finding points of mutual understanding. Themes of racism and the difficulties inherent in interracial relationships are touched upon, but not in any great detail. "Guess Who" is an all right film. It offers a few solid laughs and will provoke some smiles, but there's too much of a tendency to go for obvious, largely unfunny humor when something more subtle would have fine. It's a fairly typical, unremarkable comedy that is worth seeing primarily for the performances of Mac and Saldana. And it's probably best to only see it once, if that.



by Mason Welsh

Soccer kicks off new season

Josh Dykstra
Staff Writer

Both the men and women's soccer teams are looking up this year. The men's team has some big expectations going into this year. They are ranked 4th out of twelve in the GPAC and ranked 4th in the NAIA Regional. Coach Craig

Stiemsma says, "The hard work that we put into the pre-season is a main contributor to our great start."

One of the team's biggest strengths is the experience. With four seniors, seven juniors, six sophomores, and six freshmen the team is very balanced. The leaders of the Defenders this year are the seniors including captains, Andrew Dunham and Aaron Faber. Andrew Dunham believes that the Defenders are one of the best counterattacking teams he's been on, "[Ryan] Coon and Danny Koolhaas really work well together." The team's goals are to honor and glorify God, have a winning season, and to do well, if not win, the conference and regional playoffs. Coach Stiemsma's concerns for the team are the inexperience of the two Sophomore Goalkeepers, Aaron Bogaard and Brandon VanderWel; the lack of communication; and the lack of conditioning. The team is current 2-3, and they face Briar Cliff at home

on September 20.

The girl's team is having a rocky start this year. Coach Bill Elgersma cited lack of experience as the main reason for the poor start. The leaders of the Lady Defenders are Nicki De Blaey, Heather Otten, Karissa Phelps, and Suzanne Clark. Heather Otten believes that the team needs time to gel and to use the offensive

weapons they have. Coach Elgersma believes they'll have a better idea of where the season is headed in October. With one senior, six juniors, four sophomores,

and the rest of the twenty-one player team are freshmen. "We have a solid core of players." Coach Elgersma confidently remarks, "It's enough to build from." The Lady

defenders are ranked 4th in the conference, but are unranked in the region. The team is current 0-4-1 and face Briar Cliff at September 20.



Mark Wikkerink

Looking forward to the new year, Dordt's men's soccer team plays a game.

Intramural Corner

Jesse Veenstra
Sports Editor

The time has come for the fall nights to be filled with intramurals. Four nights a week, hundreds of Dordt Students converge for matches in four different sports. For a few lucky participants t-shirts will be coming there way in a month or so. Many intramural legends go their entire four years without a t-shirt and this is a fear for many. One sophomore guy (Jim Zeldenrust) went as far to say that he would come back for a fifth year if he never won a champion t-shirt. This type of commitment is what makes intramurals so exciting.

Here are my thoughts on the sports in progress. Men's softball has a weak showing with only six teams; however, the talent is not lacking. The Slug Bugs lead by Dan Goodyk look to be the favorites as they trounced Jon Ledeboer's Heinz 57 squad. The Slug Bugs toughest opponent will be Fred's Interior led by Tom Rozenboom, as they nearly threw a perfect game against Mavis Beacon (broken up after 4 1/3 innings). The coed softball league has way more teams, although most are awful. The favorites appear to be either Doc's Defenders led by Shawna Flikkema or Chinatown led by Tom Rozenboom. I give the edge to Chinatown, only because I am the pitcher, and I throw some serious "Hot Ice" on the mound.

Coed Soccer also only has a few teams, and I would give the slight edge to Big Poppa captained by Jeff Meuzelaar. In coed volleyball the Legacy Bandits seem to be a force to be dealt with, but I will give the edge to any team stacked with Canadian guys.

We will have to see how the playoffs pan out, and the nights should heat up in intensity.

Volleyball Heats Up

Samantha Henderson
Staff Writer

Watching someone talk about something they love is always entertaining, as well as, stimulating. They have passion in their eyes. Their love for the game and the players come out through the words and tone of their voice.

I was able to experience this with Bill Dreise, the Women's Assistant Volleyball Coach. He was so excited that all you had to do was look into his face and you knew that he loved this game. He had so many wonderful things to say about the Dordt Volleyball Team this year. How they are a "great defensive team," and how they show a "strong team, top to bottom." "The freshmen have added," he said, "the exact skills needed to fill the holes."

There are ten incoming freshman this year, twenty players altogether. They are all good players, but the hard part is, according to Coach Dreise, "equal time for 20 athletes." When asked what the team will be focusing on, he replied, "Strength training, lifting programs, and team prayer."

The Lady Defenders had

some interesting things to say as well. Tara De Boer a senior said that one reason that she chose Dordt four years ago was because not only was it a great school academically, but "it was a great fit." When asked what she is looking forward to for this volleyball season, she replied, "I'm excited to see what God has in store for us." Many of the girls have said how they love the Bible study. "It makes the team whole," according to Coach Dreise. He says "I'm proud of the spiritual leadership from the team, it's a part of the back, a conscious effort from the players for the love to be a part of what we do from day to day."

The best of luck is wished to them and their season. Come on out and support the Lady Defenders and you might to be swept up by awesome power when 6 girls make magic happen a gym floor. When using their brains, their speed, and their heart, these girls can not fail.

The team is currently 10-1 and have won 9 straight matches, all by straight sets. The only loss came to Dickinson State in five sets. They face Northwestern on September 20, at home.

Beyond the Cornfield

Jesse Veenstra
Page Editor

The next month of the year is arguably the best month of the year, when it comes to sports. I would argue that it is the second best time of the year (behind only March Madness). It is a month of beginnings and ends, and it turns into one exciting time of the year. The baseball season, which started in April, is winding down, and playoff races are heating up. The wildcard in both divisions is tight, and the A's and Angels are battling for the AL West Crown. The Yankees continue to look suspect, and they are in danger of not making the playoffs for the first time in over a decade. The young Tribe in Cleveland are hitting the cover off the ball, and Bob Wickman, the fat-test pitcher in the league is saving games left and right. Another exciting thing in baseball is that Barry Bonds made his return this week, and possibly the greatest baseball player of all-time looks to break Hank Aaron's record of 755 in the next two seasons.

A second reason for excitement is the start of football season. The college football season is personally my favorite, and the excitement never ceases. This week the

interstate rivalry took center stages, and the better team took home the Cy-Hawk trophy. It brought a large smile to my face as Hawkeye fans across the state had to shut up for at least one day as the Clones put the hurting on. I am sure that they will try to find a way to run their mouths soon, but for now it is the Cyclones' turn to smile. The Ohio State vs. Texas game was incredible as both teams were ranked in the top 5. Vince Young running all over the vaunted Buckeye defense was something special to watch.

The NFL season started this week and with this comes Sunday afternoons on the couch yelling at the TV and fantasy decisions all week. I live for fantasy football and I love everything that it involves. This season just won't be quite the same without the legend Jerry Rice, who retired this season after scoring a NFL record 197 career touchdowns. Rice is one of the top five players of all-time, and many believe the greatest.

This is an amazing time of the year, and the next month will be one of the most exciting times of the year. Forget about homework, tests, and other trivial things and concentrate on the wonderful world of sports outside of the cornfields.